

#E1-1826
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Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
Case Control Unit
Washington, D.C. 20423

December 16, 2005

received
1/17/06

FD 34284

To Whom It May Concern:

As chairman of the Medina County Historical Society, I feel a need to contact you regarding the analysis being conducted for Vulcan Materials' quarry and rail line. I first heard of the project years ago while I was mayor of Castroville and had several questions about it. Since then I have been involved in many meetings about the project and have performed hours of research.

I have found that Texas continues to lead the nation in fatalities involving 18-wheel trucks. At the same time our county is projected to be one of the fastest growing counties in the state. Those two facts combine to generate certain economic growth while jeopardizing safety in Medina County. To enable growth without that danger, I encourage the rail option that you are researching. With Vulcan's plans to start a quarry here, I understand the choices of transporting rock by truck or rail. I strongly encourage rail as the safer choice.

I also have listened to some people's concerns about historic structures and areas near possible rail routes. Like them, I want to make sure that this project does not destroy any of our historical values. I live in a home that is on the National Register and believe in preserving our past as a guide to the future. With many hours of research and thought behind me, I have not been convinced that this project will cause any disruptions to the historical integrity of those areas.

Overall, I see this project as a plus for the jobs it will bring, the spending it will create, and the growth it will provide for. The rail line will add to the value of nearby property and reduce the impact of the quarry on our homes, our lives, and our historic areas.

I and the other members of the Medina County Historical Commission would appreciate the opportunity to explain our thoughts and raise any concerns might exist.

Sincerely,


Bob Hancock

President Medina County Historical Society
1202 Gentilz Street
Castroville, Texas, 78009
830-931-9276

cc:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Representative Tracy O. King, Wayne Stein, Commissioner Chris Mitchell, Commissioner Beverly Keller, Commissioner Arturo Barrientes, Commissioner Kelly Carroll, Judge Jim Barden, U.S. Congressman Henry Bonilla, U.S. Senator John Cornyn, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, State Senator Frank Madla, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs, Pat Browner, Texas Historical Commission